

From: Tacke
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 10:52am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I believe the proposed settlement should be approved by the Department of Justice.

I have thought from the outset of this litigation, and continue to believe, that this action by the government was unwarranted and motivated by political interests led by Sun Microsystems and Oracle. The nine states objecting to this settlement are also aligned with these political interests. More recently, AOL Time Warner, a significant Microsoft competitor, has piled on.

To alter this proposed settlement as advocated by its opponents would do nothing but weaken Microsoft against these powerful rivals. And, their gains would not have been as a result of their innovation, vision, or management skills, it would be because of unwarranted government intervention.

Microsoft's activities have not harmed consumers. To the contrary, consumers and the US economy have benefited enormously from Microsoft's innovation and persistence. To alter the proposed settlement with the result of weakening Microsoft against its competitors would harm consumers.

This litigation has been a waste of taxpayers' money.

Approve the settlement and let the free market system work.

Respectfully submitted,

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CC: 'Steve Tacke'